

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Fair use and free speech go hand in hand when one wishes to criticize, document errors, or even collect proof of wrong doing. A flag on any content that prevents copying or recording of evidence and the reproduction of that evidence will only harm and impede law enforcement. Will every law enforcement agency and agent have devices that can bypass that flag? And, noting that every U.S. of A. citizen ultimately must be able to bring proof of errors or documented evidence to charge a company with wrong doing or harm to person or business, every person must also have the ability to bypass the "flag".

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? See response to Question 1; Flexibility and fair use are conveniences that would only be inhibited and infringed upon by flagged content.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

The cost to upgrade existing electronics would mean that any mandated flag equipment would be a direct benefit to businesses who are selling the new equipment without refund or any benefits to the consumer that could not be gained without the "flag" and with a few years of competitive technological development and economic progress.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

In the interest of innovation any flag would inhibit the development of interstate commerce and impede the progress of freedoms and developments of new technology just by imposing limits and unreasonable bias and power to large companies who are entrenched monopolies.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Unimaginable in terms of economic impediments and consumer purchases is the cost imposed by restricting or impeding free speech and fair use.

Technology in ten years could surpass all imaginable innovations of the last two millennia, facilitate all forms of progress, and improve everyone's standard of living; would it be in the interest of anyone (even big businesses) to limit the forward progress of innovation and development?

Other Comments:

Digital Rights Management and other forms of "Flag" requirements stand against the American ideals of freedom and the ability to improve our shared world, it is only in the name of dead end social constructs and attempts to form monopolies that companies propose restrictions on fair use and rights management!

Please consider the future and all future developments before you preclude their benefits and give monopolistic staying power to imperfect systems and outdated mediums...

Thank you for considering our future!